

## [Italian Shoe Machine Worker, Beverly #8]

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Paper No. 8

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Interview

with

Roland Damiani

. . .

by

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Merton R. Lovett

. . .

"As well as remembered."

### INTERVIEW WITH ROLAND DAMIANI

by Merton R. Lovett

. . .

"Yes, my little girl likes ice cream. Her grandfather bought her the cone. It is almost as big as she is.

"Come here, Theresa. Say 'hello' to Mr. Lovett. No, Mr. Lovett doesn't want to shake hands. Your fingers are too sticky.

"Yes, the Evening School graduation was a huge success. We had large classes. Most of them got diplomas.

"Of course the school can be improved. For one thing I'd like to see the meeting nights changed.

"We meet now on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Most of the evening school pupils work days. They get tired. It would be a good thing to skip a night. If we met Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays, the pupils would have more time to get their lessons.

"Oh, I'll find plenty to do. Now that evening school has closed, the wife and I can go out oftener. And when daylight saving comes, I can play an occasional game of golf or softball.

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"Yes, I belong to the United Shoe Athletic Association. Most everybody does. It costs only a dollar. Of course, you have to pay a little more if you join the golf club, or tennis club or rifle club.

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"The golf club dues are \$15.00 per year for members. It costs outsiders \$65.00 a year.

"Well, I wouldn't say that the Athletic Association was self-supporting. However it may be since there are no taxes to meet. Besides, the company furnishes the buildings and grounds.

"I guess that's right. The company pays any unusual expense and for improvements. They say that the fairway watering system at the golf club cost \$22,000. The new bowling green must have cost thousands also.

"No, a private club can hardly compete. Their dues must be higher.

"For a dollar employees are allowed to use the big club house, bowl, read, play pool, etc. The club house is busy every night with dances, parties, suppers, contests, etc.

"Yes, the company encourages athletics. They offer prizes and arrange competitions. There are many bowling leagues and six soft ball teams.

"The bowlers pay ten cents a string. But the prizes are donated. They also have a free banquet and theatre party after the season closes.

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"Sure, the foremen and officers mingle at the club with the workmen.

"Perhaps the company believes that improves the morale of the employees.

"To say that it is part of the campaign against unions would be far fetched.

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"Of course, many workmen enjoy tennis or revolver practice. But lots of workmen never play games.

"Yes, we should be proud of our athletic equipment. The athletic association keeps improving the grounds. Last year they built a new caddy house and golf shop.

"The dozen tennis courts are considered perfect.

"Perhaps. Some day the golf course will be one of the hardest and best in the country. They are altering fairways and greens every year.

"No, the course was already hard enough to suit me. If they make it any harder, I'll have to carry around an adding machine.

"No, I never got a hole in one. I've taken eleven strokes or worse on several holes.

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"Yes, I get an occasional par score. I guess it's luck. I got a birdie two on the 'Wedding Cake' last fall.

"No, my drive wasn't even close. It was in the sand trap behind the green. I took a sock at it with my niblic. The ball came out with a cloud of sand. It struck the flag and dropped right into the cup. No one was more surprised than I was.

"Have you played at the United Shoe golf club?

"How did you like it?

"You wish you worked at the Shoe, so you could be a member.

"What was your score?"